

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 4-6, 10-12, and 16-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be **allowable** if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-3 and 7-9 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,608,920 to Su et al. ("Su") in view of Michael, US Pat. 5,640,200 ("Michael").

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended so as to include the limitations of allowable claims 4 and 10, respectively. Claims 4 and 10 have been canceled. Claims 5 and 6 have been amended to depend from allowable amended claim 1 instead of claim 4. Claims 11 and 12 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 7 instead of claim 10. Consequently, currently amended claims 1-3 and 7-9 are now allowable. Dependent claims 5, 6, 11, and 12 are also now allowable.

Claims 13-15 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Su and Michael as applied to claims 1-3 and 7-9, and further in view of US Patent 5,796,868 to Dutta-Choudhury ("DC").

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Claim 13 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim

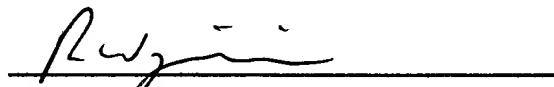
16. Claim 16 has been canceled. Allowable claim 17 has been amended to depend from amended claim 13. All claims depending from amended claim 13 are now also allowable.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon does not appear to present an impediment to the allowance of the present application.

Accordingly, Applicants assert that the present application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to phone the undersigned attorney to further the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully Submitted,

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